

## Progress Report on

September 10, 1952

No. 6

**ELECTRIC FARMING**

HAY DRYING PAYS -- Another hay-drying demonstration was held in Colorado recently -- this time by the Grand Valley Rural Power Lines. Several hundred people were present and noted the results of the three-day drying of a 20-ton stack. When the hay was put in the stack, it had a 35 to 40 percent moisture content. It dried to less than 15 percent.

Feeders say that there is no question but that this type of drying pays off because it saves from 12 to 20 percent of the protein content, and about 75 percent of vitamin A -- all of which would have been lost in normal field drying even though the weather might have been good.

Experienced feeders say that hay dried in this manner has a value for feeding purposes of \$8 per ton more than normal, field-dried hay.

POPULAR EXHIBIT AT MINNESOTA STATE FAIR -- An exhibit of new equipment which has been designed to increase farm production with the greater use of electricity attracted thousands of visitors at the Minnesota State Fair, August 23 to September 1. The exhibit was sponsored by REA-financed cooperatives, commercial utilities serving rural areas, manufacturers and distributors of electrical equipment, and was coordinated through North Central Electrical Industries of Minneapolis.

DOES IRRIGATION PRODUCE MORE TOBACCO? -- Two North Carolina Experiment Station workers have been trying to find the answer to the question "Does irrigating tobacco pay?" in tests at the tobacco branch station near Oxford. They have found that a 53 percent increase in value of the leaf crop resulted from irrigation. Part of this increase was due to yield and part to quality. This increase was very significant because the yield and quality of the unirrigated tobacco were somewhat above State averages.

NEW PAMPHLET AVAILABLE -- A new 24-page pamphlet, "Using Electricity in Watering Farm Gardens," is now available in quantity on request from REA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. The publication tells how to

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select and install garden watering equipment for best results in vegetable production and most economic use of the electric water system. Ask for Farmers Bulletin No. 2044.

CO-OP GETS RESULTS WITH ELECTRIC FARMING — The Yellowstone Valley Electric Co-op at Huntley, Montana, has launched an electric farming campaign that is getting results. Here are the 7 principal steps it is using: (1) developing plans for helping farmers make the most effective use of available power; (2) working out a program for group action on power use through the Statewide association; (3) enlisting equipment manufacturers, dealers and servicemen; (4) soliciting cooperation of other agencies and organizations; (5) determining educational aids to reinforce the program; (6) encouraging a training program for co-op personnel; (7) planning to help farmers obtain productive power equipment.

Says Manager Max Mathew: "An electric farming campaign is not a one-shot affair but a continuous program of member education. We feel fortunate that we can see immediate results from a campaign intensified only a few months ago. We realize that there is also long-range value to what we are doing, and we expect the results will make our work worthwhile."

ELECTRIC FARMING BOOSTS KWH CONSUMPTION ON KANSAS CO-OP -- Since the beginning of the Electric Farming Campaign on the Flint Hills Electric Membership Corporation at Council Grove, Kansas, members have upped their monthly farm power consumption from an average of 160 to 203 kwh. Coop has a very comprehensive power use program, employing two electrification advisers, one of whom is a home economist. Manager Mabrey is also chairman of the Kansas Power Use and Education Committee.

Two of the co-op's hay and grain drying installations will be featured in Capper's Farmer soon. The co-op is also working on an intricate, fully automatic ear corn grinding experiment, near Burns, Kans. It is cooperating with PMA, SCS, and Kansas State College in sprinkler irrigation work, using ponds, for both pastures and crops. This activity, if successful, may result in considerable boosts in power usage in the area.

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LONG RANGE PLANNING -- Although the plant of the N. W. Electric Power Cooperative at Cameron, Missouri is not scheduled to go into operation until July 1953, the co-op deems the Electric Farming Campaign important enough to start planning for it right now. It plans to undertake an extensive program. Manager F. A. Martz has met with board members of the member co-ops and has encouraged them to recruit and employ power use people. Several of these co-ops already have done so and the power co-op will also do some hiring in that category in the near future.

TENNESSEE APPLIANCE PROMOTION -- Two strikingly successful appliance promotion campaigns by Tennessee Valley rural co-ops have been reported by the Tennessee Valley Authority's Electrical Development Branch.

Tri-State Electric Cooperative, Copperhill, Tenn., added 404 major appliances and 123 small appliances in a two-month promotion carried on in conjunction with local dealers. The co-op furnished help in wiring installation of major appliances and offered prizes for the dealers' salesmen with the top sales records.

Cullman Electric Cooperative, Cullman, Ala., conducted a six-week campaign in which 16 cooperating dealers sold 207 ranges while other dealers sold about 100 more ranges. And the campaign was credited with creating about 100 more range sales in the city of Cullman. The co-op furnished materials for the range installations, while the dealers paid for advertising and labor.

FARM POWER DEMAND STUDY AVAILABLE -- A 60-page study of demand and load characteristics of 16 farms in Iowa has been prepared by the Agricultural Experiment Station, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

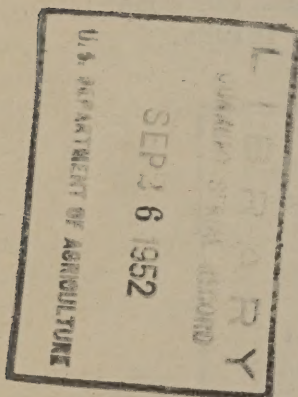
Extensive charts and tables show load characteristics at various periods for various types of equipment. A limited quantity of copies is available on request from REA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for Research Bulletin 387.

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MEETINGS ON 29 STATES -- Farm Production-Power Use meetings have been held in 29 States, some sponsored by statewide associations and some in districts. Two of the states have had meetings staged by co-ops. The complete list of states follows:

Illinois, Georgia, Colorado, Oklahoma,  
Florida, Kansas (co-ops), \*Montana,  
Alabama, \*Kentucky, \*Wisconsin, \*Missouri,  
North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee,  
South Carolina (co-ops), South Dakota,  
Washington, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, New  
Mexico, Arizona, Michigan, Mississippi,  
Nebraska, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire  
and Maine. (\*--statewides)



SOUTH DAKOTA PLANS -- South Dakota Rural Electric Association power use committee has asked each cooperative to prepare a five-year projection of its expected operations to help establish need for power use activity now to insure the future.

DREAMS COME TRUE -- An electrification adviser's dream came true recently at the Southeast Colorado Power Association, La Junta, Colo., when about 500 co-op members added over 200 appliances in one month, ranging from 16 home freezers to one automatic washing machine. This same group of 500, located on two of the co-op's new sections, purchased 35 washing machines the preceding month.

CORRECTION -- The separate leaflet distributed with Progress Report No. 5 incorrectly stated that the amount of electric power needed to dry 1,000 bu. (crop drying) was 15 kwh. This figure should have been 1,000 kwh, or 1 kwh per bushel.

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